

Current Intelligence Country Handbook
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South Africa Feb 1966

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Current Intelligence Country Handbook

SOUTH AFRICA



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Office of Current Intelligence

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GROUP 1
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Current Intelligence Country Handbooks are designed to give the reader ready access to the salient facts about a country and its main current problems. They are not intended to provide comprehensive basic intelligence on a country or to speak with the authority of coordinated national intelligence. The information presented is the best available as of the date at the top of the page.

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SOUTH AFRICA

1. Political

The Republic of South Africa left the Commonwealth upon becoming a republic in 1961, in protest over general opposition to the national policy of Apartheid. Apartheid ("separation" in Afrikaans) is the political program which brought the Nationalist Party to power in 1948. It implies not only the separation, but also the independent development of South Africa's four ethnic categories. A White minority maintains complete control over the country's Asiatic, Bantu and Colored (mixed origin) population. The Nationalist Party, which had the support of only the Afrikaans-speaking element of the White population, has emerged as the symbol of White supremacy in the face of international criticism and has recently won over many English-speaking Whites from the opposition United Party, which offers no distinctive alternative program. The other White parties, the small Progressive Party and the Liberal Party, offer a political alternative to Apartheid, but lack popular support and are operating under government restrictions. They stand more as a symbolic than an actual threat to the present government. The non-White parties are treated under "Subversion," since only the South African Whites can directly elect delegates to the legislature.

South Africa is a republic ruled by a president who acts as chief of state with powers to call and dissolve the legislature. The head of government is the prime minister; he is supported by a 19-member executive council. There is a Senate composed of 54 members and a House of Assembly with 160 members. The Colored in Cape Province elect four White representatives. Recent legislation passed by the Nationalist majority in Parliament has given the executive summary powers to make arrests and suppress any subversive or anti-Apartheid threat.

2. Economic

South Africa stands in a preeminent position in Africa, not only as a producer of minerals and agricultural products, but also as a modern industrial nation. The Republic accounts for almost one-half of the total of US investments in Africa and more than one-third of

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

February 1966

US trade with Africa. South Africa produces 70 percent of the gold, 33 percent of the chromium, and 15 percent of the uranium oxide in the free world and leads all other African countries in most categories of industrial production and consumption. Any trade embargoes or sanctions against South Africa would therefore also work to the disadvantage of the participating countries. The only major resource South Africa lacks is petroleum.

South Africa is riding a crest of affluence and is nearing the dangerous inflationary level in the price/wage ratio. A good part of the growth is due to the employment of non-White workers at very low wages in labor intense production. The Apartheid theory treats non-Whites as temporary sojourners in "white South Africa," to be sent back to their home areas as soon as they are no longer needed in the industrial sector, but the non-White population of the cities is likely to continue to grow, the theory notwithstanding. Much of the labor force comes from non-White migratory workers from the British High Commission territories, Mozambique, and Rhodesia who work in the South African mines or farms for a period of about six months before returning to their homes.

South Africa can feed itself and normally produces a surplus of wool, hides and skins, fruit, maize, sugar, and peanut oil. Most of the productive areas are owned by the Whites. The Bantu, who are not able to subsist in their own reserves, must seek employment on the White farms or in the industrial sector.

3. International Relations

South Africa is strongly pro-West and its closest ties have always been with Britain and the US. It is, however, an embarrassment to the West because of the policy of Apartheid. Its relations with much of the free world are barely correct and almost nonexistent on the official level with the rest of Africa, except for those countries contiguous to its borders. The South African government has attempted to maintain a neutral position in the Rhodesian "independence" crisis, maintaining normal diplomatic and trade relations with both Rhodesia and the United Kingdom.

The International Court of Justice is expected to rule in 1966 on the Republic's mandate over South West Africa. Almost any foreseeable verdict will once more cause the African members of the United Nations to demand the expulsion of South Africa and implementation of trade boycotts and sanctions. African pressure will be directed mainly at Britain and the US and will probably involve the UN Security Council and a call for mandatory sanctions.

2 - South Africa

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

4. Subversion

South Africa's Communist Party, founded in 1921, was outlawed in 1950 and now operates underground. South Africa has given its police and security forces broad powers to suppress Communist and other subversive forces and most opposition parties are either operating in exile or thoroughly infiltrated by government agents.

The Communist Party has operated through various front organizations of the non-Whites. It is strongest in the Congress Alliance, consisting of the African National Congress (ANC), South African Indian Congress (SAIC), Colored Peoples Congress (CPC), Congress of Democrats (COD), and the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU). White Communists, by controlling the COD's 200 members, gained a disproportionate influence in the other organizations, which themselves contained several Communists and sympathizers at the leadership level. The Pan African Congress (PAC) broke from the ANC in 1959 over the issue of non-Bantu and specifically Communist influence and has followed a more militant "Africa for the Africans" line. The revolution-minded PAC exile faction has established ties with Communist China.

The two major underground organizations are POQO (We Stand Alone) connected with the PAC, and Spear of the Nation (Umkonto we Sizwe), which is allied with the ANC. Neither the nationalist groups nor their subversive wings have any trouble-making potential inside South Africa, but some organizations are still operating in the safe haven of the High Commission Territories. All have extensive establishments in Dar es Salaam and London. Eighty infiltrators trained for subversion in Tanzania, the Congo, and various Communist countries were apprehended in 1965 after being infiltrated through these territories.

5. Ethnic Problems

South Africa, in legislating the complete separation of races, has only formalized a tacit understanding among South African Whites. Apartheid is not merely a policy of White supremacy, but implies the independent development of each ethnic group. Sixty percent of the Whites are Afrikaners, whose traditions are mostly rural, and the remainder, who are English-speaking, have operated largely in the business world. There has been a recent influx of English-speaking White immigrants from Rhodesia, Kenya, and Zambia who support the policies of the government and have been readily assimilated

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

South Africa - 3

February 1966

in the White society. The various Asiatics, of which the Indians are the largest group, are unwanted by the Whites in South Africa, but attempts to return them to their countries of origin have failed. The Bantu occupy the lowest rung on the caste-like hierarchy. Separate Bantu areas have been established by the South African government as native reserves which in theory are eventually to become autonomous regions within the Republic, but neither the urban nor the rural African population as a whole enjoys the social or economic status of the other races. The Colored (mixed origin) are caught in no-man's land. They had aspired to assimilation by the Whites, but have been pushed toward the Bantu by the die-hard Afrikaner nationalists.

Apartheid has divided South Africa by race in spite of international protests. The race distinction is likely to continue to dominate any other social affiliations. The government has used its full police powers to maintain the race barriers, and has managed to control social unrest through the suppression of opposition movements and the careful handling of racial protests in order not to create incidents such as the shooting of protesters at Sharpeville in 1960.

Chronology of Key Events

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|-----------|---|
| 1652 | Landing of Dutch settlers at Cape Town and the migration of Bantu into the area from the north. |
| 1820 | Large influx of White English settlers. |
| 1899-1902 | Anglo-Boer War. |
| 1910 | Establishment of the Union of South Africa comprising Cape Province, Orange Free State, Natal, and Transvaal. |
| 1919 | League of Nations grants mandate over South West Africa. |
| 1948 | Nationalist Party victory at the polls. Introduction of Apartheid. |
| 1960 | World-wide attention to Apartheid because of the Sharpeville massacre. |
| 1961 | Establishment of the Republic, withdrawal from the Commonwealth. |
| 1961 | National election returns Nationalist Party with 51 member majority. |
| 1962 | International Court of Justice agrees to hear charges raised by Ethiopia and Liberia against South African administration of South West Africa. |

4 - South Africa

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

Selected Factual Data

LAND

472,000 sq. mi.; 12% arable (about half cultivated); 86% desert, waste, or urban; 2% forested

PEOPLE

Population: 18.1 million; males 15-49, 4,179,000; 2,315,000 fit for mil. service; obligation for service in Citizen Force begins at 18; volunteers for service in permanent force must be at least 17

Ethnic Divisions: 19% Europeans, 68.5% Bantu, 9.5% Colored, 3% Asiatic

Religion: primarily Christian except Asiatics and Bantu; 60% of Bantu are animists

Language: Afrikaans and English official, Bantu have many vernacular languages

Literacy: nearly all of White population literate; government estimates 35% of Bantu literate

Labor force: 8.7 million (total of economically active, 1960); 53% agr., 8% mfg., 7% mining, 5% commerce, 27% miscellaneous services

Organized labor: about 5% of total labor force is unionized (mostly White workers)

GOVERNMENT

Capital: administrative, Pretoria; legislative, Cape Town; judicial, Bloemfontein

Regional breakdown: 4 provinces, each headed by centrally appointed administrator; provincial councils, elected by overwhelmingly White electorate, retain limited powers

Type: unitary republic

Branches: president as formal chief of state; prime minister as head of government; cabinet responsible to bicameral legislature; lower house elected directly by overwhelmingly White electorate; upper house indirectly elected and appointed; judiciary maintains substantial independence of government influence despite considerable pressure

Government leader: Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd

Suffrage: limited to Whites over 18

Elections: must be held at least every 5 years; last elections (1961)

Political parties and leaders: Nationalist Party, Hendrik Verwoerd, B. J. Vorster, T. E. Donges, Jan De Klerk; United Party, Sir De Villiers Graaf, W. Horak, D. Mitchell, Marais Steyn; Progressive Party, Jan Steyler, Helen Suzman; Liberal Party, Alan Paton, Peter Brown

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

February 1966

Voting strength (1961 general elections): Nationalist Party, 55%; United Party, about 30%; Progressive Party, 9%; National Union, 4.5%; Liberal Party, 1.5%

Communists: small Communist Party illegal since 1950; influential in African movements; most leaders are refugees in foreign countries—Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Abram Fischer, Lionel Bernstein, Ruth First Slovo, Joe Slovo, Joe Matthews

Other political groups: African National Congress (ANC), Albert Luthuli, Duma Nokwe, Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo (Communist penetrated at leadership level); Pan-Africanist Congress, Robert Sobukwe, Nana Mahomo; "Congresses" representing other racial groups, and South African Congress of Trade Unions (both Communist dominated)

Member of: UN (IAEA, ILO, FAO, WHO, IMF, IBRD, ICAO, UPU, ITU, WMO)

ECONOMY

GNP: US\$10.4 billion (1964); over \$550 per capita

Agriculture: main crops—corn, wood, dairy products, wheat, sugar cane, tobacco, citrus fruits; self-sufficient in foodstuffs

Major industries: mining, automobile assembly, metal working, machinery, textiles, iron and steel, chemical, fertilizer, fishing

Electric power: 5.6 million kw. capacity (1962); 32 billion kw.-hr. produced (1964), 1,830 kw.-hr. per capita

Exports: \$2,472 million, including over \$1 billion in gold; wool, diamonds, uranium, sugar, fruit, hides, skins, metals, metallic ores, asbestos, fish products

Imports: \$2,137 million (1964); motor vehicles, machinery, metals, petroleum products, textiles, chemicals

Trade: major partners—UK and other Commonwealth nations, US, Germany, Japan

Aid: IBRD loans; US economic \$154.1 million (prior to 1961, none since)

Exchange rate: 1 Rand=US\$1.40 (official)

Fiscal year: 1 Jul.–30 Jun.

COMMUNICATIONS

Railroads: 12,200 mi., mostly 3'6" gage; 1,684 mi. electrified

Highways: 206,000 mi.; 17,500 mi. paved, 39,500 mi. crushed stone, gravel, or stabilized soil, 149,500 mi. improved and unimproved earth

Inland waterways: none

Ports: 2 principal (Cape Town, Durban), 3 secondary, 10 minor

6 – South Africa

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

Merchant marine: 42 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 219,286 GRT, 305,300 DWT; includes 37 cargo, 1 tanker, 3 bulk, 1 specialized carrier

Civil air: 35 major transport aircraft

Airfields: 404 total; 22 with permanent-surface runways; 3 with runways over 12,000 ft.; 4 with runways 8,000-11,999 ft.; 103 with runways 4,000-7,999 ft.; 4 seaplane stations

Telecommunications: good telephone, telegraph, and telex service; good broadcast coverage provided by 11 AM and 3 FM stations; 1,070,000 telephones

DEFENSE FORCES

Personnel: army 17,300, navy 3,200, air force 4,700 (373 pilots), police 28,000

Major ground units: 9 combat-type battalions

Ships: 3 destroyers, 4 antisubmarine destroyers, 6 patrol, 12 mine-warfare, 5 auxiliary, 5 service craft

Aircraft: 482 (134 jets, 33 turbine helicopters), including 30 prop-aircraft subordinate to army

Supply: produces small arms and small-arm and artillery ammunition; assembles armored cars; supported primarily from UK and France

Military budget: for fiscal year ending Mar. 1966, \$321,160,000; about 15% of total budget

National Intelligence Survey (NIS) Material

The following sections of the NIS are relevant:

NIS Area 61 (South Africa)

CHAPTER I BRIEF and the following specialized sections:

Sec 22 Coasts and Landing Beaches

Sec 23 Weather and Climate

Sec 25 Urban Areas

Sec 31 Railway

Sec 32 Highway

Sec 35 Ports and Naval Facilities

Sec 36 Merchant Marine

Sec 37 Civil Air

Sec 38 Telecommunications

Sec 40 Introduction—Sociological

Sec 41 Population

Sec 42 Characteristics of the People

Sec 43 Religion, Education, and Public Information

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

South Africa - 7

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

February 1966

- Sec 44 Manpower
- Sec 45 Health and Sanitation
- Sec 51 The Constitutional System
- Sec 52 Structure of the Government
- Sec 53 Political Dynamics
- Sec 54 Public Order and Safety
- Sec 55 National Policies

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- Sec 57 Subversion
- Sec 58 Propaganda
- Sec 60 Introduction—Economic
- Sec 61 Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry
- Sec 62 Fuels and Power
- Sec 63 Minerals and Metals
- Sec 64 Manufacturing and Construction
- Sec 65 Trade and Finance
- Sec 83 Air Forces
- Secs 91–94 Map and Chart Appraisal
- Gazetteer Volumes I and II

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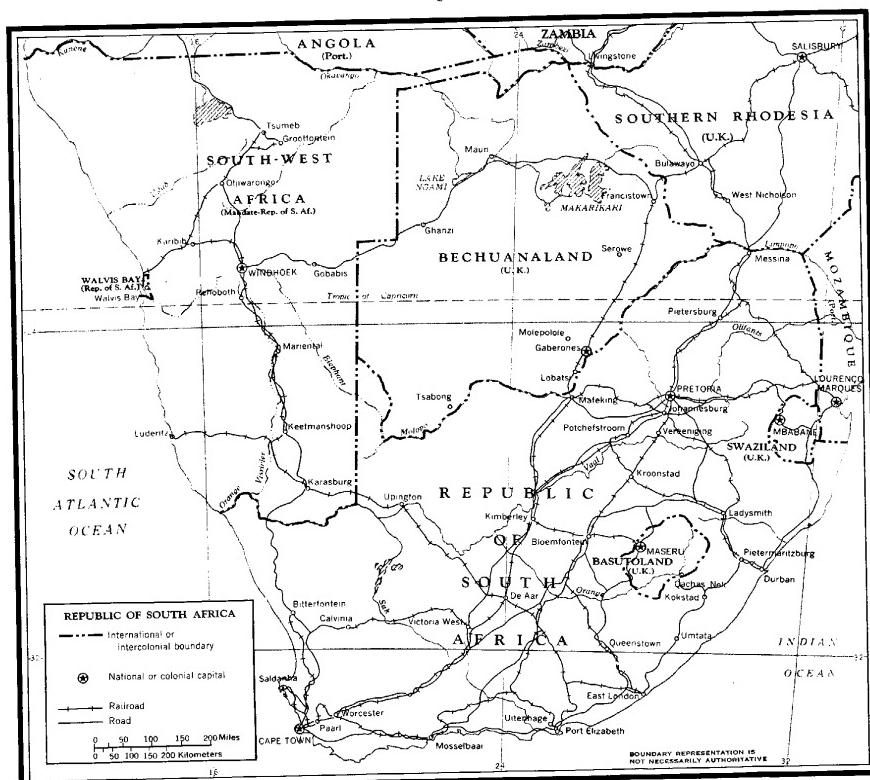
Map

The best available general reference map is: South African Tourist Corporation; *Tourist Map of the Republic of South Africa*; 1:2,400,000; 1960 or later; gazetteer on back.

8 – South Africa

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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